

REPORT
OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

IN ANSWER TO

A resolution of the Senate in relation to the appointment and compensation of Alexander G. Penn and Emile La Sere, as disbursing agents at New Orleans.

MAY 28, 1858.—Ordered to lie on the table. Motion to print referred to the Committee on Printing.

JUNE 4, 1858.—Report in favor of printing submitted, considered, and agreed to.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, May 27, 1858.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of Senate resolution directing me "to inform the Senate under what authority Alexander G. Penn and Emile La Sere were appointed disbursing agents of the government at New Orleans, by whom and when appointed, and the nature of the service of each, the total amount of compensation paid to them, and what compensation per diem Mr. La Sere and Mr. Penn, respectively, receive for all services."

In reply, I have to say that they were appointed by me, under a practice which I found in existence in the department when I assumed its charge, of appointing disbursing agents for the public works under the course of construction.

Superintendents, architects, disbursing agents, and commissioners have always been appointed by the department under the general authority conferred, in placing the construction of these buildings under the direction and control of this department.

Mr. Penn was reappointed by me on the 18th of April, 1857, and Mr. La Sere was appointed on the 19th April, 1857. Mr. Penn had been acting as commissioner and disbursing agent, under my predecessor, at a compensation of sixteen dollars per day, until the 25th April, 1856, when the office of paid commissioner was discontinued by the late Secretary, and Mr. Penn continued as disbursing agent only, at a compensation of \$8 per day. I reappointed him commissioner and disbursing agent, at a compensation of \$6,000 per annum for the combined duties. Mr. La Sere is disbursing agent for the branch mint repairs, and for the New Orleans marine hospital, now

constructing, at a compensation of \$8 per day. While acting as disbursing agent for the hospital, he was appointed to disburse for the mint repairs, without any increase of compensation, giving separate bonds for each work.

The "nature of their service" is to disburse money upon vouchers prepared and certified by the superintendents of the works, and their compensation is fixed in view of their responsibilities. They have received pay at the above rates since my appointment, making a total, to this date, to Mr. Penn of \$6,645, and to Mr. La Sere of \$3,216.

Very respectfully,

HOWELL COBB,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. J. C. BRECKENRIDGE,
Vice-President, and President of the Senate.